

11th Quarterly Report



Community Initiatives for Common Understanding

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Project Title:	Community Initiatives for Common Understanding
Donor:	USAID - CMM
Award No.:	AID-367-F-13-00001
Status of Report:	Quarterly Report, 1 December 2015 – 29 February 2016
Milestone:	Milestone 28.1, “Documentation of Project Progress on in Year 3 on Quarterly Basis” 28.1.1 USAID’s receipt of four quarterly progress reports per year – due within 30 days of the last day of each reporting quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pages: 5-8• Content: political/security context update, challenges, accomplishments v. milestones comparison, lessons learned, success stories, next quarter plan, performance indicator data• Annex: list of Milestone reports and dates delivered to USAID each quarter, list – and photos – of equipment purchased each quarter, M&E indicator data updated for each quarter

1. Introduction

Saferworld, in collaboration with Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) and Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), is implementing a 3-year project entitled 'Community Initiatives for Common Understanding' (CICU), funded by USAID. Based on the assumption that constructive interaction and cooperation at the community level for peace and development can bridge political, ethnic and ideological divides, the project aims to contribute to an environment that is shaped by trust and strong social ties between communities, including conflicting groups and local authorities, which makes them resilient to social divides, insecurity and conflict.

The project has three expected results:

- **Result 1:** *Barriers to peaceful dialogue are broken down and mutual understanding and appreciation of grievances between conflicting groups increased.*
- **Result 2:** *Conflicting groups are able and willing to identify activities for development and reconciliation and collaborate toward their implementation.*
- **Result 3:** *State actors at district and national level are better aware of and willing to integrate lessons learnt into conflict sensitive development and rehabilitation programming.*

While the project follows a community-based approach, it mainly focuses on 9,000 hard-to-reach and at-risk young people, including former combatants. Secondary audiences for this project are government stakeholders and decision-makers at the district and national level. The project is implemented in five districts of Nepal: Kailali, Surkhet, Banke and Bardiya in the Mid- and Far West; and Sunsari in the East. It targets 3 VDCs in each district.

2. Context Update

The intensity of protests (both violent and peaceful) gradually decreased in the *Tera*i, which was observed during the previous quarter, including project working districts. However, a violent clash between *Madesh*i protestors and security forces claimed 3 lives in Rangeli, Morang on 21st January 2016. With the improved situation related to the blockade, the supply of essential goods including petroleum product, food stuff, and medicine increased from the border in all of the country, except through the Birgunj border crossing point until it was eventually opened on 5th February 2016. The eventual lift of the unofficial blockade also facilitated the official visit of Prime Minister KP Oli to India starting on 19th February 2016.

The political context during the reporting period was dominated by Nepali Congress, including preparations of their general convention starting in early March. *Madesh*i *Morcha* tried to rejuvenate the protest program that slowly faded away after the Birgunj border opening by announcing a fresh protest program on 8th February. This included

Lathi demonstration, protest assemblies, a signature campaign, not paying revenue, and blocking highways. Amid the preparation of the Nepali Congress general assembly, party premier Sushil Koirala died on 10th February due to pneumonia. UCPN (Maoist) party splinter group led by Baidhya has intensified talks with Dahal-led Maoist party for unification. On the other hand, Baburam Bhattarai, who formed 'New Force', has been expanding the parties at the district level, including within CICU project working districts. There is a positive response to 'New Force' in eastern districts.

Reconstruction work has not moved forward due to the pending National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) Bill in parliament, which was initially endorsed on 9th December. Similarly, the Legislature-Parliament on 23rd January endorsed the Bill on First Amendment of Constitution of Nepal, which was endorsed by the President on 28th February. The bill read: '*socially backward ethnicity, class, community and economically backward Khas Arya shall have the rights to have participation in every State structure based on the principles of inclusion*'.

Context from CICU working VDC/district

During the reporting period the 14-step budget planning process began in the working VDCs/districts. The budget planning process in the working VDCs/district went as planned without much hindrance despite protests in *Terai* districts, which delayed the process and caused interruptions in central *Terai* VDCs/districts (non-CICU working districts). Overall, Bardiya DDC approved NPR 5 billion annual budget for the fiscal year 2072/73 from DDC council and NPR 5 billion, NPR 3.9 billion and NPR 5.3 billion approved in Banke, Surkhet and Kailali respectively.

Kukur Tharu from Hasuliya VDC was arrested with a gun looted from police during the Tikapur incident on 22 February 2016. Also in the area, *Tharu* houses vandalized in Tikapur on 8th August by a *Pahadi*-dominated mob have demanded compensation from the district administration for damages. Social life gradually began to normalise in Kailali after the Tikapur incident but the event has created a rift of mistrust between *Tharu* and *Pahadi* people. *Pahadi* community have long considered *Tharu* as trustworthy and disciplined but after the incident the perception of the *Pahadi* community altered to 'brutal'.

3. Accomplishments

This progress report covers the eleventh quarter (Q11) of the CICU project, from 1 December 2015 through 29 February 2016. During this period, activities under Milestone 6, 10, and 16 were completed and progress was made towards achieving Milestone 5, 14, 15, and 25. As the following quarter (Q12) is the last quarter of the project implementation, the remaining Milestone of 17, 18, 19, 22, and 28 have been planned and will be accomplished in Q12.

Work completed

a) Milestone 6 (Hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals

working cooperatively and pro-actively on constructive activities) Output 6.1: Beneficiaries leading in carrying out at least one activity using people-to-people approach in each of 15 VDC

The project has identified at least 200 hard-to-reach and at-risk youth from the working VDCs. These youth have been targeted for the reconciliation and social harmony activities. Among other community members, these youths have been invited and engaged in activities such as sports, community interaction, training, cultural activities as well working cooperatively as RDF and Youth Group members to implement RDF and Youth Group Action plan activities.

Out of the identified at-risk youth, the project has facilitated the formation of 15 self-help groups in 15 working VDCs. There are 150 at-risk and hard-to-reach youth engaged in the group for monthly saving and credit activities to support each other, as well as individual entrepreneurship activities. During the reporting period they have extended their linkages with local cooperatives for additional financial support to sustain the entrepreneurship activities in which they have been involved.

b) Milestone 10 (Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs) Output 10.3: Service providers identified, meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support

In the reporting quarter three psycho-social group interventions were conducted in Mohammadpur VDC, Bardiya; Binauna VDC, Banke; and Singhiya VDC, Sunsari. Psycho-social group interventions were facilitated by experienced local counsellors with the support of those that participated in the 'Basic Psycho-social Support and Care ToT'. Altogether 121 community people participated in three group interventions aimed at raising the awareness of community members on psycho-social health; introducing services available locally; identifying psycho-social problems on individuals followed by counselling support; and, if needed, referring complicated cases to district facilities. After the group intervention 22 individuals from Singhiya and Binauna received psychosocial counselling. During the reporting period, 16 individuals received psycho-social support in Kailka VDC, Bardiya.

c) Milestone 16 (Informal justice mechanisms have been identified in each VDC), Output 16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analysed and validated to produce draft Justice Mapping Report

During the previous quarter, Saferworld reported that the field research was completed in all five working districts and the data was analysed. In this reporting quarter, the draft research report was also completed, which will be shared as a Milestone report to USAID in April 2016. Milestone 18 is a follow-up milestone of Milestone 16 where the lessons learned from the field research will be shared with central level stakeholders. The recommendations from this workshop will be incorporated into the draft justice mapping research report and then will be finalized.

Work in Progress

d) Milestones 5 (Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals), Output 5.1.3 USAID receipt of video documentary report:

As stated in the previous report, one longer and one shorter version of the video documentaries have been finalized. In this reporting quarter, five district level video documentaries have been finalized. The next step is to disseminate the documentaries through different media including social media, Saferworld's official website and YouTube channel, e-mail dissemination to selected people, screening in working VDCs, and distribution of DVDs. Aside from the screenings in the VDCs and distribution of DVD copies, the remaining methods of dissemination have already been completed. There are 51 and 144 views of the longer and shorter versions of the videos, respectively, on YouTube during the reporting period; the e-mail dissemination recipient list numbers 375. District dissemination is planned in March 2016 and distribution of DVDs following in April 2016.

e) Milestone 14 and 15 (RDFs take lead in implementing action plans to address communities' needs to prevent conflict in 15 communities)

For Milestone 14 and 15, output 14.1.1 and 15.1.1, security needs were previously identified in quarter 5 and Action Plans developed for each VDC as a strategy to address those needs. In the reporting quarter a total of 26 activities from the RDF Action Plan were implemented, which were largely activities related to dialogue to enhance community reconciliation and social harmony and advocacy against gender-based violence. In the reporting quarter, 23 activities from the RDF Action Plan were planned but the RDFs managed to accomplish more than planned as they completed a few activities earlier that were planned in March. Sunsari, Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet and Kaiali have accomplished 4, 3, 8, 5 and 6 Action Plan activities, respectively, and 6, 8 and 12 activities were conducted in December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016 respectively.

**f) Milestone 25 (partners technical and organizational capacity needs built for year 3)
3) Output 25.1: CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed**

Actions required in order to address CICU's sub-partner INSEC and CWIN's technical and organization capacity needs for the third year of the project have been mutually agreed. INSEC strongly emphasized the need for capacity development on monitoring and evaluation during the needs assessment. A monitoring and evaluation training is planned in the 12th quarter for the selected staff members of INSEC. Similarly, one of the prominent needs of CWIN, which emerged during the assessment was digitalization of large volumes of child rights-related reference materials available in CWIN's head office. During the 12th quarter the project will support the establishment of a Digital Asset Management (DAM) system for CWIN; thus, the important materials available on child rights in CWIN will be digitized and secured for future reference. CWIN's resource center (library) has more than 9,000 books, 1,000 CDs, 1,000 reports, 300 research papers, and 800 video documentaries.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Challenges

No major external challenges were faced during the reporting period, unlike previous

quarters due to *Terai* unrest. However, a few activities delayed in the previous quarter had to be re-planned as the situation gradually normalized. Re-planning postponed activities has created a time pressure on the field staff members, which was streamlined by re-prioritizing all activities and merging similar activities.

Lessons Learnt

Context analysis is an integral part of the project implementation process at central and VDC level. RDFs and Youth Groups are also involved in the context analysis, which has enhanced their capacities to analyse the situation and changing conflict dynamics at the local level. Regular context analysis has facilitated the adjustment of activities within the operational framework of the project, which has supported the achievement of the project objectives. Activities such as social harmony in the previous quarter and orientation on the new constitution in the reporting quarter are examples of supplemental activities conducted as per the demand of the local context. These activities were greatly appreciated by communities and stakeholders as they contributed to mitigating conflict and promoting peace and harmony.

5. Success Stories

The project conducted ‘Mock Council’ trainings in November and December 2015 to enhance the capacity of the groups to improve their access to the VDC block grant. The training was conducted immediately before the 14-step budget planning process took place at the VDC level. As a result of enhanced capacity and information on the 14-step budget planning process, budget heading, and negotiation, RDFs and Youth Groups were able to secure NPR 1,188,000 of VDC block grant in total in 11 working VDCs. As the project is phasing out at the end of May, the block grant supports the sustainability of the groups. The project has planned RDF strategy development workshops in March, wherein the RDFs will develop their advocacy strategy for two years, which will also incorporate the activities utilising the VDC block grant.

Major Achievements in the reporting period

- The project has reached more than 2,000 community members during the 16 days campaign against gender-based violence in December 2016.
- RDF and Youth Groups members were formally invited to facilitate 7 out of 23 settlement level planning processes in Laukahi VDC, Sunsari.
- The project has systematically planned the activities to enhance people’s participation in the 14-step budget planning process. Before the settlement level consultation process started, the project organized awareness-raising and capacity building interaction programs in Phulbari and Chaumala VDCs, Kailali, and Binauna VDC, Banke for the constructive participation of community members in the budget planning process.
- The project facilitated building trust between district authorities and community members during the *Terai* unrest. The project played a bridging role to distribute 130 and 284 VDC-procured blankets to the poor community members from Laukahi and Bharaul VDC, Sunsari through District Administration Office in

January 2016. This activity enhanced trust between local government and community members amid the *Terai* unrest.

- 12 constitution orientations were delivered in the CICU working districts with the participation of more than 1,500 community members. These orientations were greatly appreciated by the participants. In one instance in Laukahi VDC, Sunsari, one participant, a district-level leader of one the Madesh-based political parties, remarked that: *“if we knew the provisions of new constitution way before, probably, there wouldn’t have been 56 deaths during Terai movement.”*
- Collaborative leadership and dialogue trainings were delivered in Banke, and Bardiya, and Sunsari to enhance youth leadership. This training was intended for the sustainability of the groups by developing leadership to continue advocacy beyond the end of the project period.
- RDFs and Youth Groups from 11 VDCs (Bharaul, Laukahi, Ramdhuni Bhasi (Singhiya), Binauna, Baijapur, Kachanapur, Birendranagar (Uttarganga), Kalika, Mohammadpur, Dhadwar, and Chaumala) have been able to secure VDC block grants this year. The total amount of block grant committed is NPR 1,188,000.

6. Quarterly Work Plan

Please see Annex D for a full overview of the Work Plan.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Performance

Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare’s (MWCSW) Undersecretary Mr. Samudra Raj Regmi participated in a high-level monitoring visit of CICU working VDCs of Bardiya district on 9-11 January 2016. The monitoring visit was scheduled with confirmed participation of Ministry of Youth and Sports and Social Welfare Council; however, those participants cancelled at the last minute due to other work commitments. Undersecretary Regmi also participated in the Bardiya District Project Advisory Committee meeting chaired by the acting LDO. The ministry representative noted his appreciation of the project and stated that he is impressed by youth involvement in development activities.

The project conducted a periodic review meeting on 18-20 January, 2016 in Thakurdwara, Bardiya. Project staff members including sub-partner staff members reflected on the project’s achievements and discussed the way forward during the review meeting.

List of Annexes

The Annexes included here are as follows:

- A) List of Milestone reports and dates delivered to USAID each quarter
- B) List-and photos-of equipment purchased each quarter
- C) M&E indicator data updated for each quarter
- D) Quarterly Work Plan- Status Update and Upcoming Quarter

Annex A: List of Milestone reports and dates delivered to USAID each quarter

No Milestone reports were submitted during the 11th quarter.

Annex B: List-and photos-of equipment purchased each quarter

In the reporting quarter no equipment was purchased for the project.

Annex C: M&E indicator data updated for each quarter

M&E indicator update for the reporting quarter is as below:

Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peace building process supported with USG assistant (1.6-6, Standard)

The project has continued to work with the same women members from RDFs and YGs who have played a substantive role in peacebuilding processes this quarter, thus there is no change in the reporting quarter.

Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict (1.6.1-12, Standard)

In the reporting period the project continued to work with 45 groups created in 2014 and 2015.

Number of Media stories disseminated with USG support to facilitate the advancement of reconciliation or peace process. (1.6.1-14: Standard)

Reconciliation and Development Forums (RDFs) of Bardiya district had developed their action plan to minimize domestic violence, gender-based violence, and maintain social harmony at community level. To address these issues they collaborated with local radio station named Gurubaba FM of Bardiya to air the program. One episode was aired during December 2015.

Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale. (1.6.2-12, Standard)

In the reporting quarter a total of 71 different events (including large-scale activities, training, and interactions) have been organized for peace, social harmony, and awareness and advocacy under USG funds. Out of 71 different activities' 15 were large-scale activities (e.g. rallies, 16 days campaign against domestic violence, child marriage, etc.); 32 were interaction and dialogue; 12 were training and 12 were meetings with stakeholders. These activities were designed to build capacity for peace and reconciliation at the community level. These activities were implemented by Reconciliation and Development Forums and Youth Groups based on local needs.

Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation. (1.6.2-14, Standard)

In this quarter, a total of 4,581 people participated in different USG supported events, i.e. large-scale activities, training and interactions at community level. Out of the total participants 59% were female and 41% were male. Similarly, as per the caste and ethnicity the highest percentages (35%) were from Janajati communities, followed by Chhetries at 29% and 13% from the Brahmin community. The Dalit communities' participation (18% from Dalit, Pahadi and Madhesi) is proportionately satisfactory and 5% Madhesi and Muslim participated in various events.

Number of people from marginalized groups participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance (1.1.1-4)

In the PPR, the number of people from marginalized groups participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance was 230. There is no additional number increased in the reporting quarter.

Number (and per cent) of successfully mediated local level disputes among women, youth or people from marginalized groups as a result of USG assistance (1.1.1-2)

No additional cases mediated in the reporting quarter.

Annex D: Quarterly Work Plan

A. Milestone implementation status update for 11th Quarter

Milestone	Progress update on Outputs/Activities Planned for reporting Quarter (September – November 2015)	Planned Timeline	Status (<i>Completed/ On track /Not completed / Not on track</i>)
5. Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals	5.1.2 USAID's receipt of video documentary/ies	Q7/8	On-going, only video documents at VDC to be disseminated
10. Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs	10.1 Psycho-social strategy and directory developed	Q8	Completed
	10.2 At least 3 orientation/training based on the localized needs and gaps identified under MS description 10.1 carried out from the actors working on psycho-social support from all 15 VDCs	Q8	Completed
	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	Completed
13, 14 and 15. RDFs take lead in implementing action plans to address communities' needs to prevent conflict in 5 communities	13.1.1, 14.1.1 and 15.1.1 Phase I – Group A (5 communities) security needs identified and discussed in participatory manner, and Community Action Plans developed	Q8, Q10, Q11	M 13 completed, M 14 and 15 are on-going

	13.1.2, 14.1.2 and 15.1.2 USAID's receipt of Action Plans for each group A,B, C community, including how the community security needs assessment is addressed, target population, and oversight methods for the plans' successful implementation	Q8, Q10, Q11	M 13 completed M 14 and 15 are on-going
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.1 Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined	Q8	Completed
	16.2 capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted	Q8	Completed
	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analyzed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report	Q8	Completed
17. RDFs develop Advocacy Plans and are trained via regular policy- oriented advocacy meetings (linked to training provided under Result 2)	17.1 RDFs trained and Advocacy Plans developed with each of the 15 RDFs	Q9	Delayed, planned in Q12
25. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3	25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed	Q9	Delayed, will be completed in Q12

B. Work Plan for 12th Quarter

Milestone	Output/Activities Planned for 12 th Quarter (March 2015 – May 2016)	Planned Timeline	Status (Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track)

5. Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals	5.1.2 USAID's receipt of video documentary/ies 5.1.3 USAID's receipt of video documentary report	Q7/8	On track, will be completed in Q12
14 and 15. RDFs take lead in implementing action plans to address communities' needs to prevent conflict in 5 communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14.1.1 and 15.1.1 Phase I – Group B and C (5 communities) security needs identified and discussed in participatory manner, and Community Action Plans developed - 14.1.2 and 15.1.2 USAID's receipt of Action Plans for each group B, C community, including how the community security needs assessment is addressed, target population, and oversight methods for the plans' successful implementation 	Q 10 and 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed - On-going, will be completed in Q 12
17. RDFs develop Advocacy Plans and are trained via regular policy-oriented advocacy meetings (linked to training provided under Result 2)	17.1 RDFs trained and Advocacy Plans developed with each of the 15 RDFs	Q9	Delayed, planned in Q12
18. District and national level actors have better understanding of existing tensions and means to encourage constructive dialogue in selected communities	18.1 Conflict mapping report finalized and shared with stakeholders from 5 district and at the national level 18.2 Youth video documentary shared with local and national stakeholders	Q7	Delayed, planned in Q12

19. District, national and international actors have understanding of benefits of community based conflict and gender sensitive approach to rehabilitation and conflict prevention	19.1 Justice mapping report finalized and findings shared with stakeholders at the district and national level 19.2 Program wide lessons learned developed 19.3 Program wide lessons learned shared with key stakeholders from 5 target districts and shared at the national level	Q11	On track, will be completed in Q12
22. Final (external) evaluation conducted	22.1 Final evaluation carried out	Q12	On track
25. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3	25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed	Q9	On track, will be completed in Q12
28. Documentation of project progress in year 3 on quarterly basis	28.1 Quarterly progress reports, quarterly meeting attendance, and quarterly events calendars 28.2 submission of project equipment disposition plan	Q12	On track